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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Olympic Legacy Park, the home of Sheffield Eagles Rugby League Football club, Rochdale Hornets with their CEO Steve Kerr, directors, especially my pal Councillor Peter Rush, (there is not much that Peter does not know about Rugby League) their backroom staff, players and of course their guests and spectators.



I would like to mention our game against Halifax in the new 1895 cup which we played at Keighley as it was a Halifax home game and their ground is being reseeded. We won the game albeit against what was a second team from Halifax but they gave us a dig and it was another good night out.

We are to play Doncaster on Wednesday 26th June at Featherstone

in the 1895 Cup. This will be another game where the opponents on paper should give Sheffield eagles a win however Doncaster are playing well and will be up for this game come along to Featherstone it will be another great night of Rugby league.

I keep getting asked where we are up to about the Olympic Legacy park and why there is no information as to when the work to complete the park into a stadium.

I can inform you that there is a great deal going on in the background to bring the Olympic Park into a stadium and whilst we are frustrated by the lack of physical progress just like yourselves and also that no confirmation of dates are final as of yet, but as soon as we are aware of more information, you will know straight away!

I would like to request that all our supporters remind all the supporters who since we have been out of the City have stopped attending our games that we need them back and we would love to see them all back supporting and cheering on the Eagles.

Enjoy the game

Chairman - Chris Noble MBE

Rochdale are languishing at the bottom of the table at present but I believe they are a sleeping giant so we need to extremely aware of this and treat them with the great respect that they deserve.

They are well coached and no less an assistant coach than Dave Larder who I believe is one of the best coaches who never moved on to the position of senior coach. 'Dids' was at Sheffield Eagles for several years in our time when we were runners up and winners of the division and I welcome him back.

Playing this game on a Friday night is getting back to what we did several years ago on a permanent basis and the game tonight should be a great experience again, let us hope for good weather.

May I congratulate the team on a great game at Mount Pleasant against Batley Bulldogs, It was a fantastic afternoon of rugby league supplied by both teams.

The Bulldogs have a big pack but our boys did not allow them to overpower us and we came away with the spoils. I am sure that playing up hill in the first half and down the 'Ski slope' in the second really help.



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TUBBY TALK

**Welcome back to the Olympic Legacy
Welcome to the OLP for tonight's
hosting of Rochdale.**

It was great to be back on a winning footing last weekend against Batley, and I thought it was a performance which was somewhere near where we want to be.

We set the right tone from the off, and the good start I have been craving gave us the perfect platform to go on and win the game.

We won the toss, and despite confidence taking a hit with recent results, Thacks backed his judgement that we were ready and opted to kick up the hill in the first half.

I must admit I was a little surprised, I thought he'd look at getting confidence restored by trying to roll them early, but he'd seen the hard work we had produced during the week on our defensive side, and he was right because I thought our attitude to defence was spot on.

We did the hard work in the opening 40, and as expected they put us under some pressure to be within a converted try at the break.

The lads though came out second half and ruthlessly took the game away with a blistering spell, and I couldn't have been happier as we got exactly what we deserved.

I have to give a mention to one or two individuals. Jimmy Meadows is a young kid who has a big future, and he played a major role in three or four tries which effectively won us the game.

His brings a calmness for a lad who is still young and learning the game, he



is a class act. I also have to speak about Brad Knowles. I have mentioned we have lacked a bit of leadership since Matty James was injured, but Brad really stepped up and set the standard at Batley.

He thoroughly deserved his tries and I was really pleased for him. Finally, a shout for Jimmy Davey who made his 200th career appearance, and really looked a threat against his former club.

Overall, all the lads were great and we now need to make sure we build on it tonight.

Thanks again for the wonderful support, and also, as always, a warm welcome to everyone connected with Rochdale who have made their way across the Pennines to be with us tonight.

Enjoy the game.

Tubbs

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COMMERCIAL CORNER

I would like to welcome tonight's Match Sponsor - Taylor & Emmet Solicitor's. Welcome to Alex Watkinson and his guests. Thank You very much for your support.

As always, just looking back to our last Home Game vs Toronto I would like to thank David Close from DC Builders and David Biggs from IFM Insurance for their sponsorship of the game. Picture are our sponsors presenting the Man of The Match award to Josh Guzdek.

Both DC Builders and IFM Insurance are big supports of the club and everyone at The Eagles thanks them for their continued support.

I write in here every week about the work I do for the club but I am not sure in everyone knows, but I also run my own business. I have a printing company and we are proud to sponsor the Trainers Shirts, more often than not, being donned by Keith Senior. From the perspective of my business,

I do not other advertising other than through the Eagles for a number of reasons. The vast majority of my work revolves around referrals and



recommendations from our existing clients and well as networking events. We also pick up work based on our logo being aligned with the clubs brand. Where am I going with this you may ask?

Well its simple. Sponsorship of The Eagles works at all levels. I think it would be a little hypocritical of me

to go and meet with clients, Talk about print and The Eagles and not be able to said " I sponsor the club".

In fact all the board members who have other businesses sponsor something. You will see Adam Claydon's logo on the socks and on the Water kit. Our Chairman's company appears on the Doctors Shirt.



I mentioned earlier about networking. On the 28th June we have our next Eagles Business Lunch taking place. We will have around 150 people in the room at Genting Club. If you would like to attend and meet like minded businesses supporting the club, please let me know.

Commercial Director
- Mark Hannigan



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FROM THE OFFICE



Tonight, sees a run of four home league games for the Eagles, with a mid-week 1895 Cup game thrown in on Wednesday for good measure!

In terms of the 1895 Cup, I'm not alone when stating that is a great idea but has been poorly executed. Mid-week games are extremely tough on players, especially those in the division like ours who have jobs away from being a professional rugby league player but also our dedicated and largely volunteer led backroom staff.

It's difficult for you, our supporters too. Credit to those who make the trip to Featherstone on Wednesday, it would be great to take a good following to the LD Nutrition Stadium for what it our first match against our South Yorkshire rivals since 2017.

I've been there, as a supporter of this club on the terraces and as a travelled to away games on public transport (in my student days), I don't envy those having to make a similar journey with no doubt a last gasp run for the train back to Sheffield!

On the flipside however it was disappointing to read disparaging comments on social media, aimed at Doncaster with regards to the game being played at Featherstone. Yes, it would have been great to play at the Keep-

moat, it's a great stadium and (slightly) closer for most than a trip up to West Yorkshire.

To take aim at them for having to move the game due to their home being unavailable is slightly mis-guided, we should remember we was in and out of the city for four years, including a season at the Keepmoat when Carl Hall & his team opened the doors during our nomadic existence.

Whilst we are no longer the nomads of rugby league, it would be hard for me at this stage to call the Olympic Legacy Park a 'home', or a 'stadium'.

We still face hurdles that we are slowly but surely overcoming at the OLP in it's current, temporary guise and we continue to await news on the development of the stadium here which we so desperately need.

We can't market the OLP to attract new and returning supporters now matter how much we try, it is a fantastic playing surface with temporary facilities surrounding it and paying customers need and deserve better.

We've held positive meetings with SUFC Women in the past few weeks and we will have a positive working relationship with them I am sure, but we still await word from Sheffield City Council and Scarborough Group on the stadium.

As the club (and Chris earlier in the programme says) as soon as we know more, we will let you know, it's not a case of if it will happen but when, that can't come soon enough and we thank you again for your continued patience.

See you all at Featherstone on Wednesday!

General Manager - Liam Claffey



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STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Prior to last weeks game against Batley it's safe to say we were in a bit of a lull performance wise.

We'd done well against a young Halifax team in the 1895 Cup, but we'd lacked conviction in the two fixtures either side.

Coming into the game this week against Rochdale off the back of that outstanding victory over Batley is a huge positive for us from a psychological performance element.

There is no doubt that success breeds success. Early in the season we were full of confidence, buzzing at the prospect of



every game.

We took a knock losing Jamesy and Glover and we seemed to really struggle for a period.

Knowing we needed to address this we faced a tough challenge in Batley, at their place, on their slope. We took that opportunity well, dominating for most of the game despite a couple of blips where we left a few sets incomplete and let Batley back into it.

Now, with my Player Performance hat on, as we look ahead to today's fixture we really need to push on and make the most out of the boost in confidence from beating Batley.

Rochdale will be firing on all cylinders off the back of a 60-0 hammering at the hands of York so the last thing we need is to build complacency into our performance. We will be looking to start hard and fast like at Batley and this is reflected in the prep this week for the game.

Although we can't take Rochdale lightly and think we are in a situation for an easy win, we do need to look at this as an opportunity to really build our confidence as part of another 3 game in 9 days stint with Doncaster and two tough games to follow in Leigh and York who are both in the fight for a top 5 finish alongside us.

Overall, we are in a good place to get a good result against Rochdale. If we take some of our clinical approach from last week, throw that in the mix with a bit more consistency, a dominant defensive performance and we should have a cracking game on our hands!

Player Performance Manager - Simon Vardy





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TODAY'S OPPOSITION

Rochdale arrive at the Olympic Legacy Park this evening with what can only be described as a disappointing campaign to date.

The Hornets languish at the bottom of the Beffred Championship table with just one win under their belt after 16 games to date (they and Dewsbury have a game in hand due to their postponed fixture earlier this year).

That solo victory came against Barrow Raiders back in March, defeating them 20-8 at their Crown Oil Arena home. Despite just the two league points on the board to date, it could have been a different story with narrow defeats to York (18-24), Batley (18-12) and perhaps most disappointing a 40-30 defeat in the Summer Bash against their Greater Manchester rivals Swinton in a game where they lead 24-10 at half-time.

Apart from them games though and a one point victory over League One leaders Whitehaven in the Challenge Cup, it's been largely heavy defeats for Rochdale this season and with those two points mean they are five points behind the next team in the table, Barrow, who sit on seven points meaning it will be a very difficult and challenging task to climb out of the relegation places and retain their Championship status in 2020.

That said, the Hornets should not be written off and the Eagles would be wise not to do so. After Carl Forster was relieved of his duties, they now have

Matt Calland at the helm and with ex-Eagles assistant coach Dave Larder joining his coaching staff, they have an astute and experience staff leading the squad.

A team in desperate need of point is a team that shouldn't be taken lightly, and the Hornets completed a clever bit of business this week in a swap deal that saw Scott Moore head to Swinton whilst Lions forward Kyle Shelford heads in the other direction.

Shelford is a good, athletic young forward and will add some punch to Rochdale's go forward. They have also brought in recently Izaak Farrell, brother of Eagles forward Joel, who earned plaudits during his brief spell with Huddersfield Giants.

Oscar Thomas is now with the Hornets after a short spell at Swinton and whilst he may have struggled in what was a disappointing 2018 campaign at Sheffield, he'll be looking to impress on his return to the Olympic Legacy Park.



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THREE TO WATCH

Ben Moores

No.9 Moores has been at the Hornets for a number of years now, helping them secure promotion from League One back in 2016 and has helped them retain their Betfred Championship place since then.

A staple of the Rochdale side, with the departure of experience hooker Scott Moore earlier this week (who played primarily in the halves during his time at the club), will likely control and lead the visitors around the paddock tonight.

An experience operator with a knack for darting out from dummy half, he'll be a threat for the Eagles this evening.



Lee Mitchell

Mitchell first appeared for the club during a spell back in 2017 with a mixture of dual-registration and loan appearances from Warrington Wolves.

Now Captain of the Hornets, he played 31 times during the 2018 campaign, crossing the whitewash four times and has an abundance of experience under his belt with over 50 Super League appearances for the Wolves but also Castleford and the then named Harelquins, now London Broncos.

A tough, no-nonsense forward he's a strong ball carrier and will be one to watch out for down the middle of the field tonight.

Dan Abram

Abram, son of former Rochdale player & coach Darren joined the club back in January this year after he departed League 1 side Whitehaven back in late 2018.

The Hornets fought off interest in the half-back (who can also play at full-back) from several Championship & League One side.

He has slotted in both at No.1 & No.7 for the Hornets and with the arrival of the likes of Oscar Thomas & Izzac Farrell he may be back in the full back position tonight.

An exciting player he has pace and flair and will be an attacking threat for Rochdale.





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Jason Crookes



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JASON CROOKES

DF: Jason, we come into this game after beating Batley quite convincingly. How nice was it to put such a big score past a side, considering our recent form?

JC: It was really good as we had lost a few games in a row. Last week in training we went well and it paid off in the end with the victory.

DF: You got over the try line against your former side. I guess that was quite a sweet moment for yourself?

JC: It was a really good moment to be fair, I enjoyed the game and being out there with the boys.

DF: How much have you been enjoying your recent run in the side after coming back from injury?

JC: It was frustrating for me as I didn't have the best form at the start of the season following my surgery. It was disappointing to



have the injury with my shoulder but I have been going alright. I'm not at full fitness yet but it'll come for sure.

DF: The lads must be feeling quite confident coming into this one after the manner of our victory against Batley last Sunday?

JC: It was a really good victory but we can't take things for granted. We will still train hard and keep building really. You don't want to be thinking you've done it all after winning like yet as Rochdale can beat anyone on their day.





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JASON CROOKES

DF: I guess that performance also shows the quality we can put up when we bring our a-game?

JC: That's it as it's a team game so everyone needs to be on form and we were against the Bulldogs.

DF: Today we face Rochdale, who are towards the bottom end of the table but have a relatively new coach at the helm. What are you expecting to see from them?

JC: They're a tough team and we had a good game against them earlier this year. You can be 30 points up against them but they're not

going to go away so we have got to be on our best game.

DF: After their convincing loss to York last weekend, I'm sure they will be motivated to put up a good performance so we'll have to be ready for that won't we?

JC: Definitely and as they have got a new coach, they'll be wanting to impress. Coming off a loss like that they will be dangerous but we have got to give the best we can.

Jason Crookes was speaking to Dan Fowler.





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GETTING TO KNOW

Tightest Player?

James Davey, not just the tightest man in the squad but the tightest man overall!

Rugby League Idol?

Steve Matai

Best RL Moment?

Playing at Wembley for Hull FC in the Challenge Cup Final

Come Dine with Me – Meal you'd make & three guests?

For starters, I'll do chicken soup. Main would be chicken schnitzel and veg. Dessert would be ice cream sundaes. I'd invite Travis Pastrana, Pamela Anderson and Freddie Mercury if he was still alive!

Snapchat or Instagram?

Snapchat



Jason Crookes

Number: 64
Position: Centre

Height: 5ft 10'
Weight: 91kg

Facebook or Twitter?

Neither - I don't use any of them, only use Snapchat!

Favourite TV Show?

Sons Of Anarchy

Worst Dressed?

Do the coaching staff count for this as Mick Heys wears some pretty bad stuff!

Best Trainer?

Tough one, would be between Olly Davies and Paddy Burns.

Starting Playing at?

Newsome Panthers

TODAY'S TEAMS



SHEFFIELD EAGLES

	T	G	DG
1. Josh Guzdek	●	●	●
2. Ryan Millar	●	●	●
4. Jason Crookes	●	●	●
5. Ben Blackmore	●	●	●
6. Pat Walker	●	●	●
7. Anthony Thackeray	●	●	●
8. Pat Moran	●	●	●
9. James Davey	●	●	●
10. Matt James	●	●	●
11. Brad Knowles	●	●	●
12. Joel Farrell	●	●	●
13. Aaron Brown	●	●	●
14. Greg Burns	●	●	●
15. Oliver Davies	●	●	●
16. Corey Makelim	●	●	●
17. Shaun Pick	●	●	●
18. James Glover	●	●	●
19. Sonny Esselmont	●	●	●
21. Blake Broadbent	●	●	●
22. Paddy Burns	●	●	●
23. Rory Dixon	●	●	●
25. Lewis Taylor	●	●	●
26. Joslin Landu	●	●	●
29. Ben Hellewell	●	●	●
31. Nathan Mason	●	●	●

Referee: C. Worsley

Touch Judges: S. Race & N. Horton

ROCHDALE HORNETS

T G DG

●	●	●	1. Declan Kay
●	●	●	2. Shaun Ainscough
●	●	●	3. Seta Tala
●	●	●	4. Ben Morris
●	●	●	5. James Worthington
●	●	●	7. Daniel Abram
●	●	●	8. Callum Marriott
●	●	●	9. Ben Moores
●	●	●	11. Lee Mitchell
●	●	●	12. Ellis Gillam
●	●	●	13. Stuart Howarth
●	●	●	14. Elliott Jenkins
●	●	●	15. Declan Gregory
●	●	●	16. Mike Weldon
●	●	●	17. Liam Carberry
●	●	●	18. Ryan Millington
●	●	●	19. Oscar Thomas
●	●	●	20. Joe Ryan
●	●	●	21. Jack Cottingham
●	●	●	22. Callum Wood
●	●	●	24. Brandon Wood
●	●	●	25. Kyle Shelford
●	●	●	26. Daley Williams
●	●	●	27. Nathan Reidy
●	●	●	29. Izzac Farrell

Match Comissioner: T. Randerson

Time Keeper: P. Crashley



FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

09/06/19

Sheffield Eagles' current downturn in form in the league continued with a 38-18 loss to Featherstone Rovers at the Olympic Legacy Park.

Featherstone came out of the blocks in both halves with vigour and caught Sheffield off guard and their quick-fire scoring was enough for them to win the game with ease.

It took seven minutes for them to get on the scoresheet as Dale Ferguson crossed from close range. Dane Chisholm added the extras.

Tom Holmes and Cameron King then hit the Eagles with a try apiece in quick succession. Two Chisholm conversions gave the Rovers a 0-18 advantage.

On 20 minutes, Sheffield fired back. Warrington Wolves loanee Pat Moran barged over as the hosts cut the deficit. Pat Walker was on hand to convert.

6-18 is how the scoreline looked going into the break and Sheffield knew they couldn't afford the same start to the second half as they put up in the first.

Unfortunately for Mark Aston's side, tries for King and Josh Hardcastle inside six minutes of the restart put the game beyond any reasonable doubt.

Despite this, Ben Hellewell and Nathan Mason both got on the scoresheet for the Eagles



before the hour mark hit and there was two converted scores between the sides.

A Chisholm penalty goal, followed by a James Harrison try, gave Featherstone an unassailable advantage as their good recent form continued in the same vein.

For the Eagles, they head to Batley next weekend in desperate need of a victory or else their top five hopes will be slipping away at a frantic pace.



MATCH REPORT

**SHEFFIELD
EAGLES**

18-38

**FEATHERSTONE
ROVERS**

1. Josh Guzdek
2. Ryan Millar
27. Jacob Ogden
29. Ben Hellewell
5. Ben Blackmore
6. Patch Walker
7. Anthony Thackeray
8. Patrick Moran
9. James Davey
31. Nathan Mason
12. Joel Farrell
15. Oliver Davies
13. Aaron Brown

INTERCHANGE

21. Blake Broadbent
16. Corey Makelim
17. Shaun Pick
11. Brad Knowles



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**ATTENDANCE
1,321**

39. Ashton Golding
2. Luke Briscoe
32. Alex Sutcliffe
4. Josh Hardcastle
5. Connor Carey
38. Dane Chisholm
40. Tom Holmes
17. James Harrison
9. Cameron King
39. Dale Ferguson
12. Brad Day
28. Josh Walters
13. James Lockwood

INTERCHANGE

15. Luke Cooper
25. Jack Render
29. Jack Ormandroyd
8. Scott Wheeldon



BATLEY BULLDOGS

16/06/19

Sheffield Eagles got back to winning ways in emphatic style as they beat Batley Bulldogs 54-24 at the Fox's Biscuits Stadium.

It was a game for the Eagles forwards as six of the nine tries scored by the visitors were from the big men. Front-row duo Pat Moran and Brad Knowles both notched braces while dual-registered London Broncos half-back James Meadows was in sublime form with a number of assists and line breaks.

Playing up the infamous Mount Pleasant slope in the first half, it didn't take long for Sheffield to break the deadlock. Five minutes, in fact, as Knowles grabbed hold of an Anthony Thackeray kick before planting down. Patch Walker kicked his first of nine conversions. Two tries in the space of four minutes threatened to end the game as a contest, despite it still being the opening quarter.

Jason Crookes powered over from a flat Thackeray pass before Moran found himself on the end of an inside ball and he finished the move well. Walker was on target with the two conversions. Batley responded well and gave Sheffield some thinking to do during the break. Paul Brearley muscled over from close range as the Bulldogs got on the scoresheet after 26 minutes. Louis Jouffret added the extras, as he did following Keenen Tomlinson's try which came via some quick Batley hands.

Many teams would have been happy with a six-point lead after attacking up the Batley hill in the second half but for Sheffield, who had been much the better side for most of the first period, they will have been smarting. Mark Aston's rallying call at the interval worked a treat. Inside 14-minutes, the Eagles had scored three tries and put the game to bed.

Meadows started to come into his element



as he attacked down the Fox's Biscuits Stadium slope. He put on the burners for the first try of the half as he broke through and played Walker over, who converted. Another Meadows break and a lovely flick offload found its way to Aaron Brown who joined the party on 51 minutes. Walker goaled. Meadows' third assist could well have been his first try but his grubber, having caused havoc in the Batley ranks, ricocheted into the in-goal and Blake Broadbent seemed to get the vital touch just before the half-back. Walker converted for 36-12.

In the final quarter, James Brown touched down for the Bulldogs as they refused to give up the fight. Jouffret converted. Three more quick-fire scores for the Eagles brought up 50-points for the South Yorkshire club. Thackeray fired a ball to Oliver Davies who had too much strength for the Bulldogs defence. A Meadows grubber sat up nicely for Knowles to get his second try of the day, closely followed by Moran who supported a neat break from James Davey on his 200th career appearance.

Walker converted all three tries but the final points of the day went to the hosts as Sam Wood burst through the defence from a scrum play. Jouffret goaled.

MATCH REPORT

**BATLEY
BULLDOGS**

24-54

**SHEFFIELD
EAGLES**

- 5. Jack Owens
- 29. Jayden Hutton
- 12. Chris Dean
- 24. Keanan Brand
- 2. Ryan Ince
- 6. Danny Craven
- 21. Joe Lyons
- 13. Hep Cahill
- 34. Josh Ganson
- 8. Jay Chapelhow
- 11. Harrison Hansen
- 17. Sam Wilde
- 15. Jordan Johnstone

INTERCHANGE

- 18. Ted Chapelhow
- 26. Dan Norman
- 19. Brad Walker
- 16. MacGraff LeuLuai



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STADIUM
FOX'S BISCUITS STADIUM



ATTENDANCE
2,798

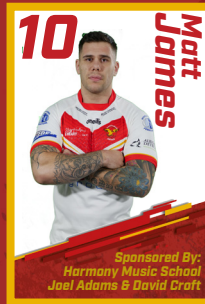
- 1. Josh Guzdek
- 2. Ryan Millar
- 27. Jacob Ogden
- 4. Jason Crookes
- 5. Ben Blackmore
- 6. Patch Walker
- 7. Anthony Thackeray
- 8. Patrick Moran
- 9. James Davey
- 11. Brad Knowles
- 29. Ben Hellewell
- 12. Joel Farrell
- 13. Aaron Brown

INTERCHANGE


- 32. James Meadows
- 21. Blake Broadbent
- 22. Paddy Burns
- 15. Oliver Davies



PLAYER PROFILES



15 **Oliver Davies**



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16 **Corey Makelim**



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17 **Shaun Pick**



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Daniel Crofts

18 **James Glover**



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19 **Sonny Esslemont**



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21 **Blake Broadbent**



Sponsored By:
Martyn Connelly

22 **Paddy Burns**



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Michelle Walker

23 **Rory Dixon**



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25 **Lewis Taylor**



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26 **Joslin Landu**



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HEAD COACH **Mark Aston**



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VIEW FROM THE PARK



How good was it to be able to sit back and enjoy that second half at the Fox's Biscuits Stadium last Sunday?

The Eagles, six points up at the break after attacking up the infamous slope, put on an attacking clinic with London Broncos dual-registration half-back James Meadows tearing the Bulldogs defence to pieces on plenty of occasions.

Meadows' speed and creativity, in tandem with Anthony Thackeray and makeshift hooker Patch Walker, gave Batley heaps of trouble and the final score certainly proved that.

It wasn't just Meadows who dominated as Sheffield's forwards, going up against a solid Batley pack, had the freedom of the park.

Brad Knowles and Pat Moran both scored twice, once in each half, while Blake Broadbent and Oliver Davies crossed in the second stanza as the Eagles racked up over

50-points as they got back to winning ways in style.

There was a lot to be happy about as we came away from West Yorkshire but as Mark Aston said in his post-match interview, they will have to be wary of a Hornets side who come into this one after a hammering against York City Knights.

Rochdale didn't post a single point against the ever-improving Knights and that is just one thing they will be looking to put right at the OLP this evening.

With playmakers such as Oscar Thomas and Izaac Farrell available, as well as young forwards like former Eagle Mike

Weldon, Rochdale cannot be underestimated and they will be looking to avenge their defeat to Sheffield earlier on this season.

Matt Calland is still relatively new into the coaching role at Rochdale after replacing Carl Forster. The Hornets board couldn't have expected an instant improvement in such a competitive division but with the experience Calland has, they have a good man at the helm.

Of course the performance of Sheffield does depend, in a way, on how many Broncos are available for Aston to choose. If the full complement of Meadows, Ben Hellewell and Jacob Ogden can play then the Eagles can choose the same team as last weekend.

If not, some fringe players will have the chance to show their worth and prove we do not need the London backup although it is certainly nice to have in the background.



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CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Last month Linda & I had a great holiday up in the Dales visiting beautiful places like Richmond, Reeth, Leyburn and High Force, enjoying the countryside and great weather. Arriving home on the Saturday evening I was not prepared for what happened the next day.

Sunday morning I woke up not being able to hear properly and with a banging headache. As the days went on my hearing diminished until I could hardly hear anything. I went for a walk one day and couldn't hear any vehicles passing me along our street. When Linda came home to find me watching the TV with the volume on 84 - yes you did read right 84 - that was when I knew I needed to visit the Doctors.

This visit informed me that I had an ear infection and my ears were totally blocked. I was prescribed ear drops to use twice daily for a fortnight and then go and get my ears syringed. Literally for 12 days I had lost my hearing.

When something you have – and, let's be honest, something you take for granted - is taken from you it causes some worry and uncertainty; it certainly did for me. My communication was hindered and work affected too. Even though twice-daily ear drops were applied it seemed nothing was happening as my hearing didn't improve but hopefully the blockage was being dislodged so my ears could be syringed.

After having my ears syringed the difference in my hearing was instant, so even though I couldn't see or hear the benefits of the daily drops they had been doing their job; having my ears flushed with warm water was the final part of the process. Since then every little sound seems amazing and I want to make sure I don't take my hearing for granted. I want to be grateful each day for the wonderful sounds of birds singing,

music playing, and TV at a more sensible level (No 8). The day after getting my hearing back I was at the cinema and everything seemed so clear and loud, it was a little overwhelming. Every day I'm having to turn things down due to the clarity of the sound and the sensitivity of my ears. I'm so grateful for my hearing.

"Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for."
—Zig Ziglar

I don't know about you but I am guilty on a frequent basis of not appreciating what I have and focusing on my problems. I want to try and rectify that by each day recognizing how fortunate I am. I hear more clearly now and hope to do what Willie Nelson said: 'when I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around'

Enjoy the game

#GRATEFUL





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GARETH WALKER

Oldham's 28-4 win over Keighley Cougars last Sunday could be significant in the Betfred League One promotion race - but what happened off the pitch was even more important to one group of people.

The Roughyeds last weekend hosted six Chernobyl children and their families, allowing them into the dressing room before the game to get autographs from Scott Naylor's squad before carrying a giant flag onto the pitch before kick-off.

They then competed in the half-time challenge to hit the crossbar, mingled with other supporters and were signed up to the club's junior supporters' club, spending time with mascot Roary the lion.

The children were in town as part of the Oldham Link of the national Chernobyl Charity, who held a bucket collection at the match so they can continue to send children from Belarus and Northern Ukraine to the UK for respite holidays to combat effects from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986.

Oldham chairman Chris Hamilton said: "We couldn't have planned things any better.

"From the minute the children arrived at the ground to the moment they left they had an absolute ball.

"Staff, players, coaches and fans made them feel welcome and I was very proud of everybody connected with the club.

"It underlined the warmth of Oldhamers.

"It was a good performance on the pitch to



set us up for next week's match at Working-ton and a good one off it too.

"The stories we were told about some of the children were truly sad and therefore it was even more rewarding that everybody made them feel so much at home that they were able to laugh and enjoy themselves."

Although they speak no English, the children could be heard chanting "Oldham, Oldham" during the match.

The Roughyeds players went over to them post match to shake hands with their new supporters and have pictures taken with them.

One of the children's hosts Mark Albiston said: "It was a fantastic experience for the children.

"We couldn't have asked for more, they were thrilled to bits.

"They had never even heard of rugby league before but they're confirmed Roughyeds fans now, that's for sure."

Clubs outside of Super League often run terrific initiatives that don't get the credit they perhaps deserve, and in the case Oldham should certainly be proud of their efforts.

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introducing other products to our portfolio. Our key USP has always been the provision of tailored, bespoke solutions, built exactly to client specification, in consultation with our experienced consultants, to ensure each customer has the perfect solution for their business. We are looking forward to working in partnership with Sage to enhance our offering, and the solutions available to their customers".

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